

Message Text

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67

ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 INR-05 PRS-01 SP-02 IO-03 EA-06 L-01 ARA-06

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R 231336Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7044

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 0984

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JO, KS, SY, UNGA

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFIARS: TALK WITH KORDAN AMBASSADOR --
UN STRATEGY AND SYRIAL RELATIONSHIP

REF: AMMAN 0153 (NOTAL)

1. AMBASSADOR SANG YUNG SOH CALLED ON ME FEBRUARY 23
FOLLOWING HIS RETURN TO KOREA AS A RESULT OF A DEATH
IN FAMILY, CONSULTATION IN SEOUL, AND ATTENDANCE AT KOREAN
COM CONFERENCE IN TEHRAN.

2. HE SAID NEW KOREAN FOREIGN MINISTER HAD BREIFED
KOREAN CHIEFS OF MISSION ON A NEW APPROACH ON UNGA
THIS YEAR. (HE ADDED THAT HE HAD BEEN TOLD FOREIGN
MINISTER DISCUSSED APPROACH WITH AMBASSADOR SNEIDER
IN SEOUL EARLIER THIS MONTH. AS A RESULT, IN PROVIDE
ONLY AN OUTLINE.)

3. KOREANS CONSIDERING MAKING STRONG ATTEMPT TO
REMOVE KOREAN ITEM FROM UN. IN ADDITION IF THEY
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CALCULATE THEY WILL LOSE THEIR RESOLUTION THIS YEAR,

THEY MAY DECIDE NOT TO INTRODUCE ONE, BUT MERELY FIGHT THE TRADITIONAL ALGERIAL RESOLUTION INTRODUCED ON BEHALF OF NORTH. KOREANS ARE CONCURRENTLY MAKING PUSH TO REVIVE AND FOCUS ATTENTION ON NORTH-SOUTH TALKS. SOH INCIDENTALLY HELD OUT LITTLE HOPE NORTH-SOUTH DISCUSSIONS WOULD PRODUCE VERY MUCH. KOREANS WILL ALSO ATTEMPT TO DIVERSIFY SPONSORSHIP OF ANY RESOLUTION THEY MAY INTRODUCE AMONG ASEAN STATES, SELECTED AFRICANS, AND NORDICS. KOREANS WILL NOT DISCUSS ISSUE WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS SUCH AS JORDAN UNTIL THEY RECEIVE US REACTION.

4. SOH SAID HE ALSO HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT PARK WHO WAS EXTREMELY INTERESTED IN SOH'S CONVERSATIONS IN SYRIA WITH BROTHER OF DEFENSE MINISTER MUSTAFA TLASS (REFTEL). SOH ALSO SAID THERE WAS MUCH INTEREST IN SEOUL IN EXTENT OF NORTH KORDAN, NORTH VIETNAMESE AND CUBAN ACTIVITIES IN SYRIA. (IN RESPONSE TO HIS QUESTION, I COULD ADD LITTLE TO WHAT HE ALREADY KNEW, WHICH WAS NOT MUCH, ABOUT SUCH ACTIVITIES.)

5. FINALLY, SOH REPORTED THAT DURING HIS ABSENCE FROM AMMAN, BROTHER OF DEFENSE MINISTER TLASS HAD VISITED AMMAN UNEXPECTEDLY. SOH'S FAMILY HAD ENTERTAINED HIM AND PRIOR TO HIS RETURN TO SYRIA HE HAD GIVEN FAMILY A MESSAGE FOR SOH. MESSAGE WAS THAT SHOULD SOH PLAN ANOTHER TRIP TO DAMASCUS, HE SHOULD INFORM TLAS' BROTHER IN ADVANCE SO THAT APPOINTMENT COULD BE ARRANGED TO MEET SYRIAN DEFENSE MINISTER.

6. SOH'S GENERAL APPROACH, WHICH WE ASSUME HAS HIGH LEVEL ROK APPROVAL, IS TO PROCEED SLOWLY AND VERY PATIENTLY WITH SYRIANS. SOH SAYS THEE IS NO QUESTION THAT PRESIDENT PARK IS INTERESTED IN FURTHER DEVELOPING THIS OPENING, BUT HE WOULD LIKE TO DO SO IN A WAY THAT DOES NOT RISK HEAVY PRESSURE FROM NORTH ON SYRIANS TO BLOCK ALL CONTACTS. SOH HAS NO BASIS FOR JUDGING WHETHER VISIT OF TLAS' BROTHER IS MORE THAN RETURN OF ARAB HOSPITALITY, BUT GIVEN EXTENT AND NATURE OF APPROACH, WE AND HE

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SUSPECTS THAT IT IS.
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